THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for accessing a plurality of bi-directional services over a cable television network, comprising:

presenting a program guide to at least one subscriber of a cable television network, wherein the program guide displays at least one of a plurality of bi-directional services offered over the cable television network;

populating a bi-directional services database with information related to the bi-directional services displayed in the program guide;

receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;

querying the bi-directional services database to determine whether the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is available for consumption in a manner requested by the subscriber;

rendering the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber; and

updating the bi-directional services database to reflect that the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber has been rendered.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session between the subscriber and a content provider.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session concurrently between a content provider and a plurality of subscribers.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a bi-directional communication session between the subscriber and at least one other subscriber.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a real-time bi-directional communication session between the subscriber and a content provider.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises a request of a bi-directional communication service for future consumption.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a request from a subscriber for a bi-directional service comprises one of a plurality of instantiations of a bi-directional service offered by a content provider.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein querying the bi-directional services database to determine whether the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is available comprises querying the bi-directional services database to determine whether an instantiation of the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is available.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein updating the bi-directional services database to reflect that the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber has been rendered comprises updating the bi-directional services database to reflect that an instantiation of the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber has been rendered.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a denial of service message to the subscriber if the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is not available.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting the subscriber to request another bi-directional service if the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is not available.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting the subscriber to reserve the bi-directional service for another time if the bi-directional service requested by the subscriber is not available.

13. A method for accessing a plurality of bi-directional services over a cable television network, comprising the steps of:

populating a bi-directional services database with information related to a plurality of bi-directional services;

sending the bi-directional services database to a home terminal of a first subscriber of a cable television network;

presenting a program guide to the first subscriber of the cable television network via the home terminal, wherein the program guide displays at least one of a plurality of bi-directional services;

receiving a request from the first subscriber for a bi-directional service displayed in the program guide;

querying the bi-directional services database to determine whether the bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber is available;

rendering the bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber;

generating an updated bi-directional services database to reflect that the bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber has been rendered; and

transmitting the updated bi-directional services database to a second subscriber.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein transmitting the updated bi-directional services database to a second subscriber occurs on a scheduled basis.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein populating a bi-directional services database includes populating an availability table of entries, each entry respectively associated with a bi-directional service and each entry indicating whether the associated bi-directional service is available.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein querying the bi-directional services database to determine whether the bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber is available comprises querying an availability table entry in the availability table of entries that is associated with the bi-directional service requested by the first user.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein generating an updated bi-directional services database to reflect that the bi-directional service requested by the first subscriber has been rendered comprises updating the availability table entry in the availability table of entries that is associated with the bi-directional service requested by the first user.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein transmitting the updated bi-directional services database to a second subscriber comprises transmitting the availability table of entries to the second subscriber.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein transmitting the updated bi-directional services database to a second subscriber comprises transmitting the availability table entry associated with the bi-directional service requested by the first user.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein populating a bi-directional services database with information related to a plurality of bi-directional services comprises populating the bi-directional services database with at least one of a bi-directional service title, a bi-directional service content description, a bi-directional service category, the identity of the content provider that provides the bi-directional service, a description of the people that fulfill the bi-directional service and bi-directional service rating information.

21. A system for providing a bi-directional services programming guide over a cable television network, comprising:

a bi-directional services content provider;

a headend in communication with a hybrid fiber-coax network and the bi-directional services content provider;

a bi-directional communications server, configured to establish bi-directional communication between the bi-directional services content provider and the headend;

a home communication terminal in communication with a display device and in communication with the headend via the hybrid fiber-coax network;

a bi-directional services program guide application server in communication with the bi-directional communications server, wherein the bi-directional services program guide application server is configured to establish bi-directional communication between the headend and the home communication terminal; and

a bi-directional services program guide client application residing on the home communication terminal and in communication with the bi-directional services program guide application server, wherein the bi-directional services program guide client application is configured to generate the bi-directional services programming guide on the display device and to establish bi-directional communications between the bi-directional services content provider and the home communications terminal.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the bi-directional communications server resides at the headend.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the bi-directional services program guide application server resides at the headend.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the bi-directional communications server communicates with the bi-directional services content provider through at least one of a router, a satellite receiver, a satellite transceiver, a terrestrial receiver, a terrestrial antenna and a bi-directional gateway connected to a backbone switch.

25. The system of claim 21, further comprising a bi-directional services database in communication with the bi-directional services program guide application server and the bi-directional services program guide client application, wherein the bi-directional services database stores information pertaining to bi-directional services for presentation via the display device.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the bi-directional services database resides at the home communications terminal.

27. The system of claim 25, wherein the bi-directional services database is external to the home communications terminal.

28. The system of claim 25, wherein the bi-directional services database includes an availability table of entries, each entry respectively associated with a bi-directional service and each entry indicating whether the associated bi-directional service is available.

29. The system of claim 25, wherein the bi-directional services program guide application server is configured to query the bi-directional services database to determine the availability of a bi-directional service requested by a subscriber.

30. The system of claim 25, wherein the bi-directional services program guide application server is configured to update the bi-directional services database when a bi-directional service is rendered to the subscriber.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the bi-directional services program guide application server is configured to transmit the updated bi-directional services database to the home communications terminal.